**MOU signed to develop low cost medical products**

1519. DR. SANJAYA SINH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a Memorandum of Undertaking (MOU) has recently been signed between the Secretary, Ministry of Defence and Secretary, Department of Science and Technology to develop low cost medical products in the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) and (b) It is proposed to form a 'Society for Biomedical Technology' as a non-profit organisation with its registered office at Bangalore. The Society will develop medical devices based on spin-off technologies originating from high-tech R&D work being carried out by Defence R&D laboratories. Defence Research & Development Organisation, Department of Welfare, National Institute of Rural Development, Nizam's Institute of Medical Sciences and Department of Science & Technology are participating in this Society and a Memorandum of Understanding among the Secretaries/Heads of the participating Departments/Organisations is being entered into.

**Expendiure on Science and Technology Institutions**

1520. DR. SHRIKANT RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total amount of expenditure incurred by the Department of Science and Technology on the Thirteen autonomous institutions under it, during the last three years;

(b) whether any evaluation has been made of their functioning; and

(c) whether the CAG of India has passed any comment recently about these institutions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS AND DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI P. R. KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) The total amount of expenditure (both Plan and Non-Plan) incurred by the Department of Science and Technology on the thirteen autonomous institutions under it during the last three years is as follows:

(Rupees in lakhs)

| 1990-91 | 1991-92 | 1992-93 |
|---|---|---|
| 3988.00 | 4296.55 | 4878.00 |

(b) Evaluation is a continuous process. Every autonomous institution has an Apex Body, viz., Governing Body/Council consisting of eminent scientists who review the progress of the work being done in the autonomous institution. In several institutions, there is a system of Research Advisory Committee/Research Advisory Council/Academic Advisory Committee which evaluates the progress of S&T activities. In addition, the Government constitute, from time-to-time, Review Committees comprising of experts.

(c) The Audit Report of CAG of India for the year ending 31st March, 1992 (presented to the Parliament in May, 1993) includes audit review on one of the autonomous institutions viz. Indian Association for the Caltivation of Science, Calcutta.

**Validation period for seasonal rainfall**

1521. DR. SHRIKANT RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR: Mill the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what is the procedure adopted in forecasting the quantitative seasonal rainfall for the country as a whole during the South West monsoon; and

(b) what is the nature of the newly developed long range forecast model?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS AND OCEAN DEVELOPMENT AND THE MINISTER OF